

11. (Previously Presented) The computer readable recording medium according to claim 8, wherein said event data is collected in an event queue.

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 and 8-11 have been pending.

Claims 6, 8, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

Claims 1-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schiefer et al., U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0249644 (hereinafter "Schiefer"), in view of Eryurek et al., U.S. Patent Application No. 204/0139079 (hereinafter "Eryurek").

Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schiefer, in view of Eryurek, and in further view of Bolene, U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0163329 (hereinafter "Bolene").

In accordance with the foregoing, the claims are amended, and, thus, the pending claims remain for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS:

The Office Action, at item 3, objects to the drawings because "drawing indicia should be in the top margins." In accordance with the foregoing, FIGS. 19-21, 31-32 and 37-38, for which replacement figures were submitted with the amendment filed on January 10, 2007, are resubmitted herewith with indicia on the front of each drawing (in the January 10, 2007, the drawings were inadvertently submitted with the indicia on the back of each drawing).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTIONS:

The Office Action, at item 6, objects to claims 6 and 8, because the claimed "outputting the related event data in a tree form by retrieving the event data from the stored event management data based upon input retrieval conditions," as recited in claims 6 and 8 is allegedly "vague."

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 6 and 8 are amended for clarity to recite, in part: "storing the related event data in a data storage; and outputting the related event data in a tree form by retrieving the event data from the ~~stored event management data~~ data storage based upon input retrieval conditions."

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 8 comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, at item 6, further rejects claim 8, asserting the claimed "executed with spreading across different business systems" is allegedly "vague."

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 8 is amended for clarity to recite, in part: "A computer readable recording medium recording a program for tracking a business process which is a flow of a ~~business-plurality of businesses~~ that is are ~~executed with spreading across different~~ in a plurality of business systems."

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claim is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected based upon their dependency from claims 6 and 8, respectfully. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 8 comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10 and 11 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS:

Independent claims 1, 6 and 8 are allegedly unpatentable over Schiefer in view of Eryurek.

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 is amended to recite, in part: "event relation means for grouping the collected event data having relative properties in common ~~by said plurality of business systems~~ based upon the stored business process definition information and the relative properties included in the collected event data from the plurality of business systems, and relating the grouped event data among the plurality of business systems based upon the plurality of business data." Support for the claim amendment can be found, for example, in FIG. 25 and in the application specification at page 30, paragraph [0088].

The Office Action, at page 6, asserts that Schiefer discloses the claimed "event relation means" at paragraphs 0130-0131 and 0138-0145. Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion, because Schiefer, at paragraph 0130 recites:

ETL applications can be divided into modules which include a set of event adapters, ETlets, or evaluators. A module has a separate deployment descriptor for the configuration of the components within the module. There are three ways of packaging event adapter, ETlets and evaluator components: 1) each component is put into a separate module, 2) several components are packaged into one module, and 3) all application components are packaged into one single module. The decision on which packaging strategy is most appropriate depends on the application size and the deployment requirements.

(emphasis added). In other words, Schiefer discusses that an extraction, transformation and loading (ETL) application can be divided into modules.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Schiefer fails to disclose, either expressly or implicitly, the claimed "event relation means for **grouping the collected event data having relative properties in common** ~~by said plurality of business systems~~ based upon the stored business process definition information and the relative properties included in the collected event data from the plurality of business systems, and relating the grouped event data among the plurality of business systems based upon the plurality of business data," as recited in claim 1, because Schiefer merely discusses dividing an extraction, transformation and loading (ETL) application into modules.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Eryurek fails to disclose, either expressly or implicitly, the claimed "event relation means for **grouping the collected event data having relative properties in common** ~~by said plurality of business systems~~ based upon the stored business process definition information and the relative properties included in the collected event data from the plurality of business systems, and relating the grouped event data among the plurality of business systems based upon the plurality of business data," because Eryurek merely discusses that "a process plant data collection and organization system uses a common or integrated navigational tree structure to organize and enable a user to view and access information obtained from different applications or data sources within a process plant" (see the abstract of Eryurek).

The Office Action, at page 7, asserts that Eryurek "teaches use of a common or integrated navigational tree structure to display data." However, Applicants respectfully submit that Eryurek fails to disclose, either expressly or implicitly, the claimed "output means for

outputting the **related event data** in a tree form,” as recited in claim 1, because Eryurek only discusses using a navigational tree to display data, but fails to disclose, either expressly or implicitly, outputting “**related event data** in a tree form.”

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be based upon Schiefer and Eryurek because there is no evidence that one skilled in the art would combine Schiefer’s extraction, transformation and loading (ETL) application dividing, with Eryurek’s navigational tree structure, and modify either Schiefer’s ETL application division or Eryurek’s generic discussion of a tree to include the claimed “event relation means for **grouping the collected event data having relative properties in common** ~~by said plurality of business systems~~ based upon the stored business process definition information and the relative properties included in the collected event data from the plurality of business systems, and **relating the grouped event data** among the plurality of business systems based upon the plurality of business data; event management data storage means for storing the related event data; and output means for **outputting the related event data in a tree form** by retrieving the event data from the event management data storage means based upon input retrieval conditions,” as recited in claim 1, and seen the benefit of, for example, “[providing] a business process tracking apparatus that makes it possible to track the flow of a business process which comprises a plurality of applications that are executed with spreading across different business systems without converting the existing system” (see the application specification at page 5, paragraph [0014]).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 6 and 8 patentably distinguish over the cited references for similar reasons as independent claim 1.

Dependent claims recite patentably distinguishing features of their own or are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependence from the independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

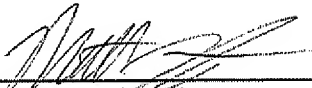
Serial No. 10/823,562

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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